


CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: April 4, 2012

TO: Brian Cummings, Fire Chief

FROM: Wendy Greuel, City Controller 

SUBJECT: UNDERLYING DATA FOR LAFD RESPONSE TIMES

I appreciate your commitment to fully cooperate with my Audit Division staff during our independent review of LAFD's actual Response Times. However, most items noted on my Auditor's Request for Information which are due no later than April 5th, remain outstanding.

Your staff provided data that was downloaded from your Computer Aided Dispatch System to my Auditors at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, 2012, with the suggestion that two specific files, derived from CAD's incident table and response table, be used to calculate LAFD response times.

As this independent audit must first address issues of data completeness and reliability, my staff has been working diligently to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the data. It has come to our attention that timestamps noted for some critical events (such as dispatch time, enroute time, and on scene time) that were captured and noted in the files your staff suggested we use for audit purposes, can be overridden through the normal system processing. This may also be a concern if LAFD used data from these tables to report historical response times.

Therefore, to ensure data integrity, we must consider all historical records for all LAFD units, so that the appropriate time for these critical data elements (i.e., first unit responded/enroute/on scene) is considered in our analysis. While a third file noting "Unit Status" was also provided by LAFD (which included 36 million records), it was not in a format that was conducive for our analysis, and did not initially include all identifying information. That information (community code) was just provided today.

I am hopeful that LAFD will provide my staff with all requested information timely, to ensure this independent audit can be completed as expeditiously as possible.